

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6691

INFO USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OTTAWA 2194

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MPOL, CA

SUBJECT: ADMIRAL BOYLE CONTROVERSY COMES TO A CLOSE

REF: OTTAWA 2154

1. JUNE 11 PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT ADMIRAL BOYLE
CONTROVERSY (REFTEL) HAS COME TO A CLOSE AFTER DEFMIN
RICHARDSON GAVE "REPRIMAND" TO ADMIRAL FOR HIS STATEMENT
TO CONSERVATIVE PARTY CAUCUS.

2. AS EXPECTED, THE MATTER HAS ENDED NOT WITH A BANG,
BUT A WHIMPER. ADMIRAL'S OUTSPOKEN COMMENTS RECEIVED
CONSIDERABLE PRESS COVERAGE AND EDITORIAL COMMENT BUT
CRITICISM WAS DIRECTED NOT AT HIS COMPLAINTS RE DEFENSE
SPENDING BUT RATHER AT HIS COMMENTS ON AREAS "OUTSIDE
HIS AUTHORITY." MORE SPECIFICALLY, DEF MIN RICHARDSON, BOTH
IN PARLIAMENT AND APPARENTLY IN HIS REPRIMAND TO
ADMIRAL BOYLE, STATED HIS AGREEMENT WITH BOYLE'S
POSITION ON INADEQUATE DEFENSE SPENDING BUT CHASTISED
HIM FOR SUGGESTING THAT OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS
SHOULD "AMALGAMATE" THEIR "NAVIES" INTO ONE MARITIME
COMMAND, FOR CRITICISING CANADA'S UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM
BE HANDLED BY PUTTING THE UNEMPLOYED IN THE CANADIAN
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MILITARY.

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, NO FURTHER DISCIPLINARY ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST ADMIRAL BOYLE AND "THE INCIDENT WILL NOT IMPAIR HIS CHANCES FOR PROMOTION IN THE ARMED FORCES." (THE ONLY JOB HIGHER IN RANK THAN ADMIRAL BOYLE'S IS CHIEF OF DEFENSE STAFF.)

4. COMMENT: GIVEN THE TRUTH BEHIND ADMIRAL BOYLE'S GENERAL COMMENTS, THE OUTCOME OF THIS CURIOUS AFFAIR IS NOT SURPRISING AND SINCE HIS "REPRIMAND" APPARENTLY CONSISTED MOSTLY OF TELLING HIM HE WENT "BEYOND HIS AUTHORITY", THE MATTER PROBABLY IS SHELVED IF NOT FORGOTTEN. BOYLE'S POPULARITY WITH THE TROOPS IS NO DOUBT ENHANCED, BUT POSSIBILITY OF HIS SUCCEEDING DEXTRASE AS CDS IS CLOUDIER, ESPECIALLY SINCE ANOTHER SENIOR ADMIRAL, VICE CHIEF ROBERT FALLS, IS PROMINENT IN THE RUNNING. SEA ELEMENT HAS NOT YET PRODUCED A CDS AND IS OVERDUE.
PORTER

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